

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 14-16 have been amended and new dependent claim 17 has been added to better scope the invention. No new matter has been added by the aforementioned changes.

Turning to the art rejections, the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-16 as obvious from Deutsch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,315,916) in view of Mori (U.S. Patent No. 6,596,462), Damme et al. (US Patent No. 6,739,260), Thackeray et al. (US Patent No. 6,607,870), Meyrick et al. (US Patent No. 6,344,497), Tsuji et al. (US Patent No. 5,849,463), DeBoer et al. (US Patent No. 5,497,046) and Ehretsmam (sic) et al. (US Patent No. 3,847,265), and the rejection of claims 1, 5, 7, 10 and 14-16 as being anticipated by Mori and the rejection of claims 2-4, 6, 8-9, and 10-13 as being obvious over Mori, Damme et al. Thackeray et al., Meyrick et al., Tsuji et al.; DeBoer et al., and Ehretsmam (sic) et al., and the rejection of claims 1-16 as being obvious by Ma et al. in view of Mori, Damme et al., Thackeray et al., Meyrick et al., Tsuji et al., DeBoer et al. and Ehretsmam (sic) et al., and the rejection of claims 1-16 as obvious from Arimatsu et al. in view of Mori, Damme et al. Thackeray et al., Meyrick et al., Tsuji et al.; DeBoer et al., and Ehretsmam (sic) et al., and the rejection of claims 1-16 as obvious from Furukawa et al. in view of Mori, Damme et al., Thackeray et al., Meyrick et al., Tsuji et al., DeBoer et al. and Ehretsmam (sic) et al. and the rejection of claims 1-16 as obvious from Miyabe et al. in view of Mori, Damme et al., Thackeray et al., Meyrick et al., Tsuji et al., DeBoer et al. and Ehretsmam (sic) et al. are all in error,

Independent claim 1, the sole independent claim, requires, in part, "[i]magewise applying droplets of a near infrared absorbing imaging material to the plate coating ... exposing the plate to near infrared emitters whereupon the near infrared absorbing imaging material absorbs energy causing a change in portions of said heat sensitive coating underlying said

applied imaging material, and treating the plate with a developing solution to remove unchanged portions of said coating.”

The Examiner acknowledges that neither Deutsch, nor Ma et al., nor Arimatsu et al., Furukawa, nor Miyabe teach a heating step using a near infrared emitter as specified in claim 1. The Examiner takes the position that Mori et al. applies this missing teaching. More particularly, the Examiner refers to Mori et al. as teaching the use of a near infrared emitter energy heater to coagulate an ink-provided area on the layer. However, Mori et al. is fundamentally different from Applicant’s claimed invention. In Mori et al., an ink containing an infrared absorbing material is jetted imagewise on a printing plate having a water-soluble coating. In Mori et al., the ink, upon exposure to infrared light, is changed to a water-insoluble material which acts as a mask to protect the underlying coating in a subsequent developing step. In Applicant’s claimed invention, the near infrared absorbing imaging material is not changed. Rather, the imagewise applied droplets of near infrared absorbing imaging material absorb energy and cause a change in the underlying heat sensitive coating, whereupon unchanged portions of the coating are then removed in a developing step. Thus, contrary to the Examiner’s suggestion, Mori et al. does not supply the missing teachings to Deutsch et al. or to Ma et al. or to Arimatsu et al. or to Furukawa or to Miyabe et al. in terms of using an infrared absorbing imaging material and a near infrared emitter as required by independent claim 1.

None of the other secondary references alone or in combination supply the missing teachings to Deutsch, or to Mori, or to Ma et al. or to Arimatsu et al. or to Furukawa or to Miyabe et al. to achieve or render obvious any of Applicant’s claims.

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Damme et al. is cited as teaching a washing or rinsing step using water after a developing step. Damme does not teach or suggest infrared absorption immobilization of an underlying coating as required by Applicant's independent claim 1.

Thackeray et al. is cited as teaching the use of novolac and naphthoquinone diazide sulfonic acid ester as well as lovalac and latent bronsted acid. Thackeray is also cited as teaching a drying step after wet development steps. Thackeray does not teach or suggest infrared absorption immobilization of an underlying coating as required by Applicant's independent claim 1.

Meyrick et al. is cited as teaching a pigment capable of absorbing infrared energy having a wavelength 2.2-3.2 microns. Meyrick does not teach or suggest infrared absorption immobilization of an underlying coating as required by Applicant's independent claim 1.

Tsuji et al. is cited as teaching the use of polyazide or diazo resin or binder. Tsuji does not teach or suggest infrared absorption immobilization of an underlying coating as required by Applicant's independent claim 1.

DeBoer et al. is cited as teaching the use of resole and novolac resins and a latent Bronsted acid. DeBoer does not teach or suggest infrared absorption immobilization of an underlying coating as required by Applicant's independent claim 1.

Ehretsmann et al. is cited as teaching the use of a heat setting monomer as a film forming agent or binder. Ehretsmann does not teach or suggest infrared absorption immobilization of an underlying coating as required by Applicant's independent claim 1.

Thus, no combination of any of the art cited by the Examiner reasonably could be said to disclose or render obvious Applicant's claim 1, or any of the claims which depend thereon.

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Turning to the rejection of claim 1, 5, 7, 10 and 14-16 as anticipated by Mori et al., as noted, *supra*, Mori et al. is fundamentally different from Applicant's claimed invention. In Mori et al., an ink containing an infrared absorbing material is jetted imagewise on a printing plate having a water-soluble coating. In Mori et al., the ink, upon exposure to infrared light, is changed to a water-insoluble material which acts as a mask to protect the underlying coating in a subsequent developing step. In Applicant's claimed invention, the near infrared absorbing imaging material is not changed. Rather, the imagewise applied droplets of near infrared absorbing material absorb energy and cause a change in the underlying heat sensitive coating, whereupon unchanged portions of the coating are then removed in a developing step. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 1 as anticipated by Mori et al. likewise is in error.


Claims 5, 7, 10 and 14-16 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 and are patentable over Mori et al. for the same reasons above adduced relative to claim 1 as well as for their own additional limitations.

Newly added dependent claim 17 is allowable over the art for the same reasons above adduced as well as for its own additional limitations.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

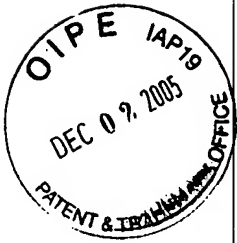
In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,


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